



News from **SALEM COUNTY** Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer
Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202
After Hours: (856) 297-5433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 18, 2011

CLASSIC COMEDY SILENT FILMS SCREENED IN ALLOWAY *Renowned Theater Organist Wayne Zimmerman Featured*

(SALEM, NJ)—On Saturday evening, February 26, 7:30 pm, 21st century audiences can experience the silent film era at a free screening of classic silent films starring the legendary comedy team of Laurel & Hardy presented at the Alloway Baptist Church. Entitled “Pictures and Pipes,” the program features renowned theater organist, Wayne Zimmerman, Sr., providing the musical accompaniment on the church’s 1931 Moeller pipe organ. This special musical evening is sponsored by the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Salem County Arts Alliance as part of the Music Around the County Concert Series.

“Music Around the County is designed to present innovative, high quality musical programs here in Salem County,” said Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Three short films, all produced by pioneering film maker, Hal Roach, are on the playbill: *Two Tars* (1928), *Slipping Wives* (1927), and *The Second Hundred Years* (1927). Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were one of the most popular comedy teams of early American cinema and influenced generations of comics up to the present day. Recognized today as national treasures by the Library of Congress, all three films exhibit the gentle slapstick and extended “tit for tat” gag sequences for which the comedy team was so well-known. Seeing them as they were originally intended with live theater organ accompaniment is a rare and special treat.

“Pictures and Pipes recalls a time almost a century ago, when live musical performance was an integral part of the moving picture experience, and promises to be a great night out for the entire family,” said Freeholder Timberman, “and we’re especially pleased to welcome Wayne Zimmerman as our guest artist.”

Hailing from nearby Pennsylvania, Zimmerman is well-known throughout the region for his theatre organ performances. Since the 1960s, he has made regular appearances at theaters in Lansdowne, Upper Darby, and Havertown. He has toured from coast to coast including performances on the famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, and the Dickinson Theatre Organ in Wilmington, DE. He especially enjoys accompanying classic silent films.



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“Pictures and Pipes” is open to the public and there is no admission charge. The church is located at the corner of W. Main and Cedar Sts. in Alloway. Free parking with jitney service to the church is available at Alloway School on Cedar St. and the Alloway Township Municipal Building, S. Greenwich St. and Waterworks Rd. For information call (856) 935-7510 x 8532 or visit www.VisitSalemCountyNJ.com.